GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1439
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Krishi Dak Scheme
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the salient features of Krishi Dak Service Scheme;

(b) the names of the States where 'Krishi Dak Service' has been implemented and the number of Seed Dakpals functioning at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of jurisdiction and the nature of functioning of seed Dakpals';

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up seed banks in all the districts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited by the Scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) of ICAR has conceived the idea of using the vast network of post offices spread in rural area and village level post masters in dissemination of improved seeds. The basic idea of this Model is to send the seeds of improved varieties through postal services to the identified village post masters who in turn distribute the seed to the selected farmers of the villages under his area for cultivation. The village level post masters are being trained in improved farm practices and are expected to perform the role of change agents. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at the grassroots level is associated in the model. They are expected to provide capacity building of the village post masters and the farmers. The model has been named as 'Krishi Dak'.

(b) 'Krishi Dak' model is being implemented in 14 states (Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand) covering more than 175 Branch Post Masters (BPMs) or 'Sakha Dakpals'

(c) The Branch Post masters facilitates in reaching the farmers in the jurisdiction of their branch post office (ranging from 4-5 villages to 12-15 villages). The Branch Post Masters (BPMs) and farmers were trained in improved farm practices with the help of local Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). These postmaster/farmers laid out demonstrations of improved IARI varieties and other technologies on their farms, which became the place of learning for other farmers and the seed produced from such demonstration farms were further made available to other farmers.

(d) The establishment & maintenance of Seed Bank Programme which was under implementation from the year 1999-2000 and onwards which has been re-structured as National Seed Reserve for implementation during the remaining year of 12th plan period i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17. The National Seed Reserve (NSR) programme is being implemented by about 22 implementing agencies in the country namely National Seed Corporation (NSC), State Seeds Corporations (17), and State Agricultural Departments (4). The detailed list of NSR implementing agencies is given in Annexure.

(e) The scheme is beneficial to farmers in meeting the requirement of seeds of short and medium duration crops during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions.

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